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there was no difficulty in issuing the writs under the name of the Agents-in-Charge of the Government, but he would reserve his opinion until after consulting the Attorney-General.

The Speaker said that there was extreme inconsistency and incompatibility in persons addressing the Government, although in the present instance they were legally and imperatively called upon to do so, holding seats in either Houses of the Legislature. He would reserve his opinion until after consulting the Attorney-General.

Mr. HOLROYD expressed a similar opinion with Mr. Martin. He looked upon the signatures of the Members of Parliament to the writ as purely a matter of form.

Mr. COWPER supported those opinions in a few remarks.

The SPEAKER said, in bringing the matter before the House his object was not to delay the public business, but to get the opinion of the House, so that it might not be a mere affair which he, as Speaker, had passed over his head involving a doubt, and which might be thought to affect the privileges of the House, especially on the subject of the mode of election.

He never suspected for a moment that anything unlawful would happen from the present state of affairs, with reference to the administration of the Government. He would not venture to set on the safe side. After the opinion given by the hon. member, the Attorney-General, and other honorable members, he would not hesitate in issuing the writs, which would be sent out to-morrow, Friday.

The matter then dropped.

SUPPLY.—RESUMPTION OF THE COMMITTEE.

On the motion of Mr. COWPER the Speaker left the chair, and the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the Supplementary Estimate for the year 1898.

Mr. JONES moved the following item—compensation to Mrs. Elizabeth Wenter, in lieu of the commission received by E. D. Day, Esq., for superintending the sale of Crown lands on the 17th of January, 1894, and also for being paid to the representative of the late W. Wenter, Esq.

Mr. H. CAMPBELL and Mr. GORDON opposed the motion. They could not understand why the sum sought should be called on twice to pay the sum sought, because it was some dispute between Mrs. Wenter and Mr. Day.

The item was put and passed.

Mr. FORSTER moved the sum of £10, to raise the salary of the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Carried.

Mr. COWPER then moved the next item.

Commission for land, rents of office, advertising, &c. 6000 0 0

Carried.

The following items were put and carried.

Public Works.
Cost of placing two lights at Newcastle, so as to show the harbour light, the fairway into or out of the harbour 400 0 0
Enclosure of sand hills, Newcastle 60 0 0
Laying down of telegraph wires 11 11 2
To complete the repairs to the roadway and dam over the bridge at Newcastle 400 0 0
For the repairs of the sea wall at Newcastle 370 0 0
For making landing-place for the accommodation of passengers at Newcastle, North Bridge, North Borneo and Kangaroo Point 100 0 0
HOLROYD.
For the erection of a watch house between Mainland and Stretton 450 0 0
For the erection of a court and watch-house, Castlemore 450 0 0
For the erection of a watch-house at South Gundagai 500 0 0
Additions and repairs to court-houses, Brisbane 500 0 0
Purchase of buildings for police purposes, West Australia 250 0 0
For the erection of a court and watch-house, Louisburg 250 0 0
For the completion of the watch-house, Colinton 21 0 0

Mr. COWPER moved the following item.

Repairs and alterations, commissariat stores, Sydney 5,535 0 0

Mr. CAMPBELL wished to know which stores were repaired at the Commissariat Stores, Sydney, since the late Colonial Treasurer could give this information. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DONALDSON explained that one-half of the stores up the river-street, facing the Quay, were given up to the Colony by the Government, and the other half was still retained by the Home Government.

Mr. COWPER thanked the hon. member for the informs ion he had given.

Mr. COWPER moved the sum of £150 in lieu of £300 to be voted for fixing the steam engine, Government Printing-office. Carried.

Roads and Bridges.
For the repair of roads in defining general (reconstruction) 15,000 0 0

was put and carried.

On the motion of Mr. JONES the following items were withdrawn :

For the construction of a causeway at Fairbrook 700 0 0
For the construction of a causeway at Fairbrook 50 0 0
Murrumbidgee 80 0 0

Mr. COWPER moved the sum of £83 6s. 9d.: Salary of clerk and draughtsmen, Murrumbidgee River, from 1st September, at \$250

Carried.

Mr. COWPER then moved the next item—

Two additional troopers for commissioners of the Murrumbidgee River 35 10 0

Mr. FORSTER enquired what the Leichhardt district was, and whether it was the Burnett district that these troopers were intended for?

Mr. A. MARTIN replied it was thought necessary to put down this sum.

Mr. FORSTER objected to this item, because he considered the troopers were unnecessary. He knew the Leichhardt district in that district had been employed on other duties besides attending on the Commissioners.

Mr. GORDON opposed the vote. He did not consider the blacks now at all dangerous, and on no paper was there any mention of them. He feared times when the blacks were so much about, he could not see any reason why the number should not be increased to three.

The motion was then put and carried.

The following item was withdrawn :—

BOTANIC GARDENS, SYDNEY.
Wages of two men employed in January last in laying out the garden 15 15 0

Mr. COWPER moved the next item.

Auditor-General: Difference between £2000, the salary provided in schedule A, and that of £1000 per annum actually paid to the Auditor-General, on his appointment, as attached to the office £100 0 0

Mr. FORSTER opposed the vote. The question was then put and carried on a division. Ayes, 17; Noes, 4.

Mr. COWPER said the next item was postponed in consequence of the explanation not being considered sufficient by the House. He now moved—

IMMIGRATION.
Byrdine : Two clerks, at £225 and £150 375 0 0
Byrdine : Wardman 30 0 0
Byrdine : Wardman 30 0 0
Fuel and light 75 0 0
Other contingencies 250 0 0

Mr. COWPER moved the sum of £700 for arms and ammunition, &c., of the Native Police. Carried.

Mr. MARTIN moved the following items:

Clerk to the Hon. the Crown Law Officers, at £200, from 12th May 127 5 4
To indemnify Gilbert Elliott, Esq., for the payment made to him by the Government for an action brought against him while in the discharge of his official duty 235 15 7

On the motion of Mr. COWPER, the Chairman left the chair, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again on Wednesday next.

RIVER MURRAY CUSTOMS BILL.

Mr. JONES in moving the second reading of this bill, said that he had already stated in another place any lengthy remarks upon its nature, as his hon. friend the member for the South Riding had previously on its introduction, explained it to the House. It was well known that many goods passing by way of the River Murray, both to and from this and adjoining colonies, to the detriment of the public revenue; this had long been a source of dissatisfaction on all sides, and the authorities were anxious to devise some means of collecting the duties levied on such trade. An arrangement had been arrived at, by which the duties levied should be collected in South Australia, according to those levied in a colony, and the bills then sought to carry through the second reading. The present measure, he said, was a mere experiment until some better more suitable scheme as regarded the appropriation of the duties could be devised. He hoped that the bill would be a satisfactory arrangement, and this copy certainly had no reason to object on the ground of opportunity, when compared with the quantity of its goods passing by that outlet, the duties to be levied on such trade. As soon as the South Australian Government discovered, with a reasonable accuracy, what was the amount of duties collected, it might be necessary to increase the amount. With that explanation, he begged to move the second reading of the bill.

Mr. DONALDSON asked the Secretary for Finance and Trade whether the Victorian Government had

suggested to change in the appointment of first suggested by them?

Mr. JONES, in answer to the question of the hon. member for the South Riding, could read a communication from the Victorian Government agreeing that the duties should be collected in South Australia, and instead of the original apportionment of duties to Victoria, and one-fourth of the duties levied upon this trade, and the amount of the duties agreed to, until it could be ascertained what was the amount of river-borne goods landed in New South Wales.

The bill was then read a second time.

Mr. JONES then moved that the Speaker do leave the chair, and the House resolve itself into committee, to consider the details of the bill.

The motion was then put and carried on a division, and, with a few verbal references to the date of its operation and other less material particulars, was agreed to.

The Chairman then left the chair, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again on Wednesday next.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS' BILL.

Mr. COWPER, with very few remarks, as to the importance of the bill, moved its second reading.

Mr. PIDDINGTON suggested the postponement of its consideration in committee.

Mr. FORSTER said he should, if its consideration in detail were proposed, reserve the power to urge the alterations he thought necessary to be made in the management in the Railway Department was due to the interference of the Government in the working of the railways. He thought it was the duty of the Government to interfere in the management of the railways, and for the recommendation of that system they had successful precedents in France and other continental states.

Mr. COWPER said there was nothing in the Act to prevent such an arrangement. If the House desired it he was quite ready to postpone it till Tuesday next.

The bill, however, was read a second time, and its consideration in committee fixed an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. COWPER : It had been mentioned to him that the embarkation of H. M. 11th Regiment took place to-morrow, and that the officers and soldiers, and men if the House suspended its business, and an opportunity be offered to its members to witness the embarkation. For himself, however, he should be ready to appear before the House, if it should be desired he would move that the House be adjourned till Tuesday next.

Mr. FORSTER then put he had higher duties to perform, and could not attend to the business of the day. He would not move that the House be adjourned till Tuesday next.

Mr. DONALDSON did not exactly understand the intention of the hon. member, but he thought they included attendance at our barracks (Launceston).

Mr. COWPER would then move that the House adjourn till to-morrow.

HOLROYD.
If I thought if members went there to-morrow merely to see if they could see them, there would certainly be a failure, and was of opinion that if the first motion of the hon. member were put to adjourn till Tuesday next, it would be appropriate.

Mr. PIDDINGTON said that he might admire the fighting of the officers and soldiers of the regiment now leaving the colony, he thought it was hardly consistent with the dignity of that House to suspend its business.

In answer to a remark from Mr. COWPER, the SPEAKER said he could have no wish whatever distinct from that of the House, and whichever course the question was most convenient.

The question was then put, and resulted in an adjournment till this day (Friday) afternoon.

The House adjourned at half-past eight o'clock.

BARAAR IN THE BOTANIC GARDENS.—Yesterday this Fancy Fair was brought to a successful termination under most favourable circumstances. The weather, for fitness, was all that could be desired ; and the result, in fact, was a large and highly fashionable turn-out of the elite of Sydney. On the previous day there was the elegant display of ladies' fancy work, which elicited universal admiration. Judging from appearances, a handsome sum must have been yielded to the fund for the building of St. John's Church, the Evangelist's Church at Darlinghurst. One of the great objects of attraction was the collection of Crimean trophies and relics, exhibited, through the kindness of Colonel Sir George Grey, of the 17th Regiment, in a separate tent, erected for the purpose. Amongst these we may enumerate, a bunch of grass from the field of Inkermann ; an ink bottle formed from a Russian bought shell, and mounted with canister from the same battle ; a sword, bayonet, and an eagle, made from part of the great bell of Sebastopol ; Russian pistol taken in the Mamelon ; Greek pistol taken at Balaklava Castle ; box of Russian cartridges ; a pair of Russian bayonets ; Russian rifle and sword bayonet taken at the battle of Inkermann ; the forage cap of a Russian soldier, and another of a Cosack ; a Russian officer's helmet, a dagger taken from the hand of a Russian officer in the Grand Redoubt ; helmet of the Russian artillery in the Grand Redoubt ; belt of the Russian Imperial Guard ; a marine's shirt from Sebastopol ; two crosses taken at Alma, of the Crimean soldiers ; a Russian flag captured by the 77th, from a Russian trampster, in single combat, on the night of 19th April, 1855, at the capture of the rifle pits ; grape, canister, and bullet, from the Crimea ; a Russian flag captured by the 77th, from a fuzee box of the Malakhoff ; an armlet and charms from Sebastopol ; lancehead of the 17th Royal Lancers engaged at Balaklava ; priest's vestments from the Crimea ; a Russian flag captured by the 77th, from the enemy at the battle of the Tchernaya ; head of a Russian flagstaff ; dagger from the field of Inkermann ; Russian medal for twenty years' good service, taken from the body of an officer within the Mamelon Fort ; helmet of a Russian officer in the Grand Redoubt ; helmet of the 77th (Henry Cotterell), after being lodged there one year and six months ; a Cosack's riding whip, and sword ; the helmet of the 77th, from the battle of Inkermann, and a Russian flag captured by the 77th, from the battle of Inkermann. Besides these, there were a variety of other relics, the names of which we found it impossible to ascertain, from the labels being torn and the names of the donors obliterated (the prizes were formed into groups) were formed into groups, and other fanciful devices, the handy work of the artificers of the 77th, to whose taste as an artist they are exceedingly creditable. It is to be hoped that these trophies will be preserved in the Museum of the War Office, to tell the tale of their exploits in the Crimea. Nor must we forget to notice an interesting souvenir of the battle of Soboruk, viz., a half-rown piece of the Russian flag captured by the 77th, from the enemy on that memorable occasion, and which saved his life ; it was struck by a rifle ball, that made a deep indentation upon one end, and, on the reverse, impressed the form of a small key, which changed to the position of the letter "K." Between the exquisite music of the 77th's band, the gay company, the artistic display of ladies' work, and the Crimean trophies, those whose good fortune it was to be present, spent an afternoon of enjoyment which will not soon be forgotten.

TRANSPORTATION OF CONVICTS TO DELTA OF THE ZAMBESI.—We observe in a copy of the *Deutsche Zeitung*, of July 25th, 1897, that the German Government has decided to transport to the colony of Zululand, in Natal, the commission appointed for the consideration of the question of transportation to New Caledonia in connection with the termination of the Penal Servitude

